

Design and Access Statement, Little Dale and Housedale blue Mountain bike trails, Dalby Forest

Location

Dalby Forest lies on the southern slopes of the North York Moors National Park, and is both a popular visitor attraction and important habitat for wildlife. A £4.3 million investment (2003-2007) has resulted in the remarkable transformation of Dalby forest into a Regional Centre of Excellence for sustainable economic activity. With an attractively refurbished courtyard, a sustainably constructed Visitor Centre, and a large network of cycle trails, Dalby Forest is proving to be a valuable asset in the region, giving the local economy a much needed boost by drawing in tourists from far and wide.

Proposed Development

This planning application proposes to create sections of Blue (intermediate) grade trail that link into the existing mountain bike infrastructure to increase the length of trail at intermediate level. There is a large provision of Red (technical) grade trail and some Black (expert) grade trail and plenty of forest road network for cycling. But a lack of intermediate grade trail has been identified.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Provide an increased amount of intermediate grade bike trails
- To allow the riders to progress from beginner to expert trails in a controlled and safe manner.

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The trail will run along the following route:

1. The first section will be on Housedale rig where it will leave the long uphill forest drag and follow a purpose built trail through the forest on a steady climb. This will develop the rider's singletrack climbing ability while affording the rider some great views over Sneverdale and a closer engagement with the forest.
2. The second section descends the eastern edge of Little Dale coming out on to the Ellerburn forest road adjacent to the Bike Skills training area. This will give a fun descending end to the proposed blue grade trail.

Design

The trails will follow in general the IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association) trail design as shown on the attached standard detail (Drawing no2). It will be bench cut formation with locally won limestone/sandstone for the construction. There will be some rock built features on the Housedale section and the Little Dale section will have a series of Berms (banked corners). These are designed to control speed and introduce flow to trail.

Access

During the construction phase access will be along the existing forest network.

Conclusions

This will add to the mountain biking appeal of Dalby forest and open the trails up for more beginner riders to develop their skills.

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